

Macon United Methodist Church
190 W Bell Street, Macon, IL 62544; (217) 764-5133
September 27, 2026 **Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Psalm 78: 1-4

Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth! ² I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old, ³ things that we have heard and known, that our fathers have told us. ⁴ We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord, and his might, and the wonders that he has done.

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

PRELUDE

GATHERING Welcome, Announcements, Celebrations

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**



***CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)**

The apostle Paul calls us to ‘let the same mind be in you that was in Jesus Christ.’ What is the mind of Jesus?

The mind of Jesus is to love God, neighbor, self, and all creation.

Paul reminds us that ‘it is God who is at work in you.’ How is God at work in us?

God enables us through grace to love God, neighbor, self and all creation.

Paul exhorts us to ‘work on your own salvation with fear and trembling.’ How do we work on our own salvation?

We cooperate with grace to love God, neighbor, self, and all creation.

Beloved, we gather to worship God, who, through Jesus, shows us how to love and enables us to love as Christ loves us.

We gather to learn how to live in full accord through our love of God, neighbor, self, and all creation.

HYMN

“Majesty, Worship His Majesty”

(UMH # 176)

Majesty, worship His majesty Unto Jesus be all glory, honor and praise

Majesty, kingdom authority Flow from His throne, unto His own His anthem raise

So exalt, lift up on high The name of Jesus

Magnify, come glorify Christ Jesus the King

Majesty, worship His majesty Jesus who died, now glorified King of all kings

OPENING PRAYER

COMMUNITY PRAYERS (pastor)

SILENT PRAYER (pastor)

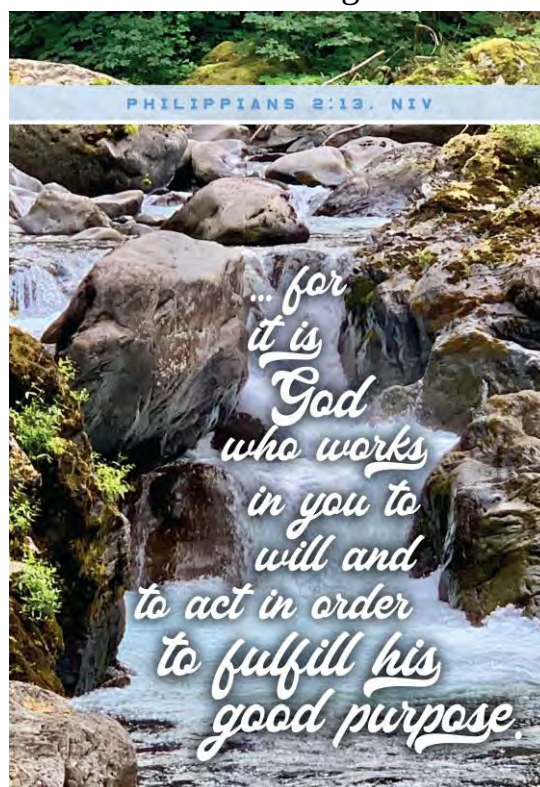
THE LORD'S PRAYER (all)

SCRIPTURE READING

Philippians 2: 1-13

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ²complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped ⁷but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

¹²Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.



MESSAGE

“Like Him”

Beverly Matthews Certified Lay Minister, Supply Pastor

HYMN

“Lord of The Dance”

(UMH # 261)

1. I danced in the morning when the world was begun,
and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,
and I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth.
At Bethlehem I had my birth.

Dance, then, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the dance, said he.
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be, And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

2. I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee,
but they would not dance and they wouldn't follow me;
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John;
they came with me and the dance went on.

Dance, then, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the dance, said he.
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be, And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

3. I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame,
the holy people said it was a shame;
they whipped and they stripped and they hung me on high;
and they left me there on a cross to die.

Dance, then, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the dance, said he.
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be, And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

4. I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black;
It's hard to dance with the devil on your back;
they buried my body and they thought I'd gone'
but I am the dance and I still go on.

Dance, then, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the dance, said he.
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be, And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

5. They cut Me down and I leapt up high, I am the life that'll never, never die,
I'll live in you if you'll live in Me; I am the Lord of the Dance, said He.

Dance, then, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the dance, said he.
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be, And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

***DOXOLOGY**

(UMH # 95)

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)**

Humble savior, you meet us at the start of everyday and invite us to take on the mind of Christ. As we bring these gifts, set aside in us the need to win, to hoard, to be first. Shape us instead for love, for shared work, for joy in serving side by side. Use what we offer to build a community where sacrifice is natural, mercy is instinctive, and hope rises in every heart. Keep forming us, not by force but by grace, until our living begins to look like Jesus. We place our offerings and ourselves in your hands. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Sheryl Frye

CLOSING PRAYER

Within the strength of community, in the power of silence, we come before God with the truth of our lives, trusting in the mercy and love of our creator. Let us offer our confession before God and each other. Receive the good news. God's love abounds for us forgiving us and restoring us to community with God and one another. In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

"Rock of Ages"

(UMH # 361)

1. Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee;
let the water and the blood, from thy wounded side which flowed,
be of sin the double cure; save from wrath and make me pure.
2. Not the labors of my hands can fulfill thy law's commands;
could my zeal no respite know, could my tears forever flow,
all for sin could not atone; thou must save, and thou alone.
3. Nothing in my hand I bring, simply to the cross I cling;
naked, come to thee for dress; helpless, look to thee for grace;
foul, I to the fountain fly; wash me, Savior, or I die.
4. While I draw this fleeting breath, when mine eyes shall close in death,
when I soar to worlds unknown, see thee on thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee.
give our hearts to thine obedience, serve and love thee best of all.

BENEDICTION

Beloved, remember; God is at work in you, enabling you to will and to work for God's pleasure. May God bless you with a spirit of joyful cooperation and Christian love as together we work with God and neighbor for the flourishing of all God's creation. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Beverly J, Matthews, PsyD
Certified Lay Minister, Supply Pastor
217 825 9010

Be certain to check the church website, <https://maconilumc.net/> for updated information about the church, events and news. Please use webmaster.maconumc@gmail.com to submit updates or additions to the church website.

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: 40

ATTENDANCE GOAL: 70

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRESENCE AND SERVICE

Sun. Oct 04 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. Oct 04 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service
Sun. Oct 11 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. Oct 11 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service
Sun. Oct 18 8:00 am Men's breakfast; Fellowship Hall
Sun. Oct 18 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. Oct 18 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service
Sun. Oct 25 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. Oct 25 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service
Sun. Oct 25 11:00 am Pastor Appreciation Potluck; Fellowship Hall
Sun. Nov 01 8:30 am Grief Group; Pastor's Office
Sun. Nov 01 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. Nov 01 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Sept 30	Jerry Heinkle	Oct 02	Lori and Doug Huggins
Oct 02	Pat Roush		

MISSIONS



Items requested by the food pantry are: Any kind of cereal, or cereal bars; canned soup; canned pasta; mac and cheese; shampoo; and antiperspirant. Cash donations are always welcome.

SPEAKER SCHEDULE

Oct 04 Beverly Matthews Certified Lay Minister, Supply Pastor
Oct 11 Kirk Yenerall, Certified Lay Minister
Oct 18 Keith Baker, Lay Speaker
Oct 25 Beverly Matthews Certified Lay Minister, Supply Pastor

WOMEN OF FAITH

The United Women of Faith are collecting cash donations Sept 27 at church for Salvation Army Christmas gifts. The Macon UMC United Women of Faith are holding a toy drive for ages 1 to 17. A collection box will be in the back of the sanctuary. The toy pickup is October 10.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

The Men's Breakfast is October 18, 2026 at 8 am in Fellowship Hall.

PASTOR APPRECIATION POTLUCK

A Pastor Appreciation potluck will be held after church on October 25 right after worship service.

PASTOR ABSENT

Pastor Bev to be gone October 9-19, 2026. Kirk will cover pastoral duties. She will also be gone November 12 through 14. Pastor Bev will ask Kirk to cover this also.

FOCUS GROUP

November 1 at 8:30 am will be the first meeting of the Focus Group which will focus on grief, loss, and mental health. We will meet every first Sunday at 8:30 for one hour prior to worship. Feel free to bring your own coffee. Questions can be directed to Pastor Bev at 217 825 9010 call or text.

